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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S TRIBUNE CENTRE
NEWSLETTER

#11

1ST QUARTER
— 1980 —



announcing
**THE
NGO
FORUM**

COPENHAGEN

JULY 14-24 1980

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inc. WORLD CONFERENCE	

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inc. WORLD CONFERENCE	

INTRODUCTION....

This edition of the International Women's Tribune Centre Newsletter is being devoted to the Copenhagen meetings and other related events. The World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women and the parallel activity organized by a planning committee of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) The NGO Forum, will take place in Copenhagen in July, 1980. So many women have contacted the Tribune Centre asking for information about these meetings, that we felt it was important that we throw our weight behind the communications efforts of both the World Conference Secretariat, and the NGO Forum Planning Committee, and the newsletter seemed the obvious channel to use. We have concentrated most of our efforts on The NGO Forum however, because, as a follow-up project to the IWY Tribune in Mexico City, 1975, the focus of the Tribune Centre has always been on the activities of non-governmental women's groups around the world.

We would like to thank all those readers who filled out and returned the questionnaire that was enclosed with the last issue of the IWTC Newsletter. It would be very much appreciated if those who have not as yet filled out this questionnaire could now do it, and send it to the Tribune Centre as soon as possible. The suggestions people made for activities at the NGO Forum were handed over to the Planning Committee, and they were delighted to receive them.

Following this extra-ordinary edition, the IWTC Newsletter will resume its normal format, featuring information on women's projects, resource groups and available publications on specific project areas. The Second Quarter issue will be on Health, Education and Employment projects around the world, and will be published well before the Copenhagen events.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S TRIBUNE CENTRE, Inc.

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	Dixie Mahan	

SUBSCRIPTIONS

IWTC Newsletter is free to Third World groups and individuals. Other persons are requested to subscribe \$5 per year (4 issues).

CREDITS

Please credit IWTC Newsletter when using materials from this source.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR 1975

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE.
IWMY TRIBUNE - Non-Governmental.
— Mexico City —



1976



1985

MID-DECADE
1980

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE.
NGO MID-DECADE FORUM.
— Copenhagen —

Since its founding in 1947, the United Nations has concerned itself with the status and rights of women, as have the U.N. specialized agencies in their own domains. BUT DECADES EARLIER INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR AFFILIATES WERE ALREADY AT WORK TO IMPROVE THE LEGAL AND ACTUAL STATUS OF WOMEN.

1949

In 1949, the UN Commission on the Status of Women was formed.

1975

1975: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR: Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 1972, is to be devoted to *intensified action*:

- "(a) To promote equality between men and women;
- "(b) To ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort, especially by emphasizing women's responsibility and important role in economic, social and cultural development at the national, regional and international levels, particularly during the Second United Nations Development Decade;
- "(c) To recognize the importance of women's increasing contribution to the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States and to the strengthening of world peace."

(General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII))

MEXICO CITY

UN CONFERENCE: 19 June - 2 July

NGO TRIBUNE: 19 June - 2 July

WORLD PLAN OF ACTION: For the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year.

1. To stimulate action at the national and international levels to solve the problems which place women in an inferior position.
2. To ensure their full integration in the development effort.

THE

Equality - peace

mathematical
symbol
of
equality

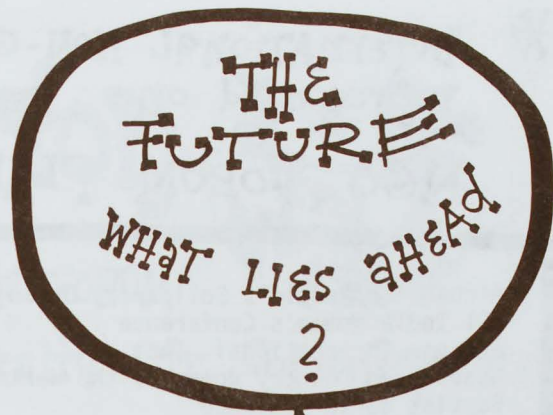
THE DECADE

Equality
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symbol
for
female



UN
WORLD
CONFERENCE
July 14-30
1980

NGO
MID
DECADE
FORUM

COPENHAGEN

1980 MID-DECADE POINT

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1980 CONFERENCE:

Paris	-	9-12 July 1979
New Delhi	-	5- 9 November 1979
Caracas	-	12-16 November 1979
Lusaka	-	3- 7 December 1979
Damascus	-	10-13 December 1979

PREPARATIONS FOR THE NGO FORUM:

New York Consultation	-	January 19, 1980
Geneva Consultation	-	Jan.28-30, 1980

* International NON-GOVERNMENTAL Organizations
represented on: 

NGO FORUM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization
All India Women's Conference
Altrusa International, Inc.
Associated Country Women of the World
Baptist World Alliance
Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the
World Council of Churches
Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations
International Alliance of Women
International Council of Jewish Women
International Council of Women
International Federation of Business and Professional Women
International Federation of University Women
International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples
International Planned Parenthood Federation
International Society for Community Development
International Union of Students
International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations
The Population Institute
Socialist International Women
Society for International Development
Soroptimist International
Women's International Democratic Federation
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Women's International Zionist Organization
World Association of Girl Guides and Scouts
World Confederation of Labour
World Federation of Democratic Youth
World Federation of Trade Unions
World Federation of United Nations Associations
World Peace Council
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations
World Young Women's Christian Association
World Women's Christian Temperance Union
Zonta International

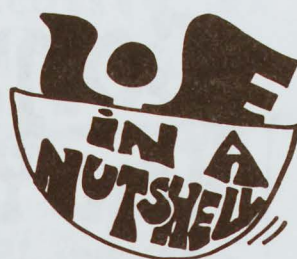
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PROGRAMME
SUB-COMMITTEE

MEDIA
SUB-COMMITTEE

PUBLICATIONS (NEWSPAPER)

inFORMATION



WHAT ? NGO Mid-Decade FORUM

WHERE ? Amager University Ctr. Copenhagen.

WHEN ? July 14-24, 1980.

PROGRAMME :

The programme of the Forum will give special attention to the themes for the Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, and the sub-themes for the UN Conference: Health, Education and Employment. The Planning Committee has held two Consultations, one in New York and one in Geneva, in order to get ideas from women representing a wide geographical area and different ideological backgrounds. The Consultations were attended by women from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East, the Caribbean, North America, Eastern and Western Europe. In accordance with the UN agenda, two additional main themes were added to the Forum programme: Racism and Sexism, Refugees and Migrants.

The Forum programme will be carried out mainly through opening panel introductions to each of the main themes with presentations from people from different parts of the world. Workshops, seminars and small discussion groups, many of them initiated by ad hoc groups, or national and international organizations, will deal with detailed questions under each of the main headings.

The Planning Committee carries the financial responsibility for the Forum and is still actively seeking funds. Major costs are related to interpretation (essential for an international meeting), and for assuring the leadership and resource persons from Third World countries. The Forum is an open meeting, but pre-registration is desirable through the Planning Committee Office: Room 574, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

In addition to arranging for the Forum, the Planning Committee has set up a Publications Committee to be responsible for a daily newspaper at the Forum, and has invited the International Women's Tribune Centre to coordinate the activities that take place in VIVENCIA! - the communications/media resource celebration that will function outside of the formal programme sessions at the Amager University Centre.

All enquiries to :

NGO Planning Committee
Room 574
600 Lexington Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10022
U.S.A

CONSULTATIONS

New York

January 19, 1980

Geneva

January 28-30, 1980

Leading up to the Forum.....

A one-day consultation in New York on January 19, and a three-day consultation in Geneva from January 28-30 inclusive, were attended by a total of eighty women representing every region of the world and all walks of life. A summary of the major issues and conclusions from the two consultations includes:

ISSUES:



EQUALITY: Legal status of women/ Freedom to choose life-styles/ Marriage customs and traditions that are obstacles to the advancement of women/ Racism and sexism/ Rights of indigenous peoples, minorities, migrants and refugees/ Political participation/ De facto status/ Need for information to be disseminated on the Convention on Discrimination Against Women



DEVELOPMENT: Need to challenge and rethink present concepts of development/ New International Economic Order, New International Information Order, New International Development Strategy, as they affect women/ Transnational corporations/ Women in science and technology/ Development of services for women/ Income-generating, income-retention projects that will support economic independence for women/ Management training opportunities/ Training in appropriate technology skills.



PEACE: The need for real peace and not just the absence of war/ The expenditure of money for armaments as opposed to development/ The ill effects of nuclear weapons/ Education for peace/ Forming networks of women for better understanding.



HEALTH: Primary health care/ Women as givers as well as receivers of health care/ Body development of the child/ Family planning-informed consent, the right to choose, adolescent fertility, teenage pregnancy, abortion for the poor, the psychological aspect of fertility/ Preventative health as opposed to purely curative/ Interpretation of traditional methods into modern methods, e.g. village midwives/ Safety and hygiene in the workplace/ Pharmaceutical companies as they affect women/ Health care for consciousness raising/ Participation of women in WHO and its approach to questions relating to the health of women/ Breastfeeding, infant formulas/ Drug abuse, inc. alcoholism amongst women/ Genital mutilation/ Sterilization abuses

Issues for the Forum discussed at New York & Geneva consultations....



EDUCATION: Non-formal education/ Free and compulsory education for girls and boys/ Co-education/ Special education/ Education in changing attitudes on the roles of men and women/ Parenting education for boys as well as girls/ Sex education/ Curriculum reform to meet realities of situation and culture/ Vocational and career guidance at all levels-for school girls, for adults, for women re-entering the job market/ Education to raise consciousness of all people, but especially rural women, to enable them to identify problems and find ways to solve them/ Non-sexist teacher-training/ Literacy campaigns for community-related incentives/ Continuing education opportunities throughout life.



EMPLOYMENT: Need for involvement of women in all planning and decision-making positions/ Child-care facilities of high standard imperative for working mothers/ Non-traditional occupations made available to women/ Flexitime (flexible working arrangements) for working mothers/ Services and training for migrant workers/ Co-operatives and trade unions that reflect the needs of women/ Occupational hazards/ Sexual harassment on the job/ Women working in the home/ Maternity privileges as a social right/ Examination of all labour laws as they affect women/ Access to credit/ Women who are self-employed, working in small industries/Prostitution.



ISSUES RELATING TO MORE THAN ONE AREA: Double day workload for women/ Mental health, psychological stress brought on by tensions in changing roles of women/ Family life/ Rural women, minority women, young women, migrant and refugee women/ Media image of women/ Transmission of information and how this affects the lives of women/ The elderly woman and her special problems/ Trafficking in women/ Human rights / Racism, sexism, the system of APARTHEID.

ORGANIZATION:

It was generally agreed at both consultations that the Forum should be an action-oriented meeting, with plans for follow-up action wherever possible. The programme needs to be flexible and creative, with opportunities for informal gatherings, workshops and events outside of the formal panel sessions. Among some of the suggestions for additional activities were:



VIVENCIA! - an informal, ongoing programme of events and happenings that will provide opportunities for people to talk, share, display publications, screen films about and by women, and to develop and support on-going networks regionally and internationally. Ways in which this will happen include:

WORKSHOPS: Communication/ Project design, development & funding/ How to conduct simple surveys/ Lobbying techniques/ Information exchange networks/ Training for volunteer work/ Mass media & women. Feminism/ Developing structures for the future: A feminist perspective.

VIVENCIA!

A SPANISH WORD THAT MEANS:
"AN EXPERIENCE THAT BECOMES PART OF
LIFE"



Because VIVENCIA! is still very much in a developmental stage, the International Women's Tribune Centre would very much like to have your ideas and suggestions so that this programme can be made as stimulating and useful as possible. On these two pages, we have listed some of the events and possibilities that have been suggested to date. THE LIST IS NOT A FINAL ONE, AND THERE WILL PROBABLY BE MANY CHANGES BETWEEN NOW AND JULY 14.

Most importantly, it is not intended that the Tribune Centre should actually run all these events. To the contrary, IWTC sees its role as one of facilitator, making it possible for many groups and individuals to take part and put on "events" within the framework of VIVENCIA! It is foreseen that the NGO Planning Committee will make a certain amount of space available at the Amager University Centre in Copenhagen for the informal VIVENCIA! programme, and groups who want to take part during the ten-day period will co-ordinate their activities with IWTC.

Here are a few of the ideas that have been suggested for VIVENCIA! so far:

DISPLAYS OF
PROJECT MATERIALS

GATHERING PLACE!
including
publications | workshops
informal MEETINGS



10

films
about / by /
for
WOMEN



INFORMA
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POSTERS

AN INFORMAL, ON-GOING PROGRAMME
OF EVENTS, DISPLAYS, WORKSHOPS,
MEETINGS, PERFORMANCES, THAT WILL
TAKE PLACE AROUND THE FORMAL
PROGRAMME AT THE FORUM

JULY 14 - 24, 1980



AMAGER UNIVERSITY CENTRE
COPENHAGEN

WORKSHOPS on:
PROJECT DESIGN...
funding...
NETWORKING...
MASS MEDIA...
LOW-COST MEDIA...
video...
FEMINISM...

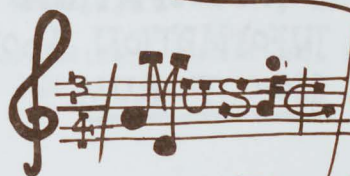
CROSS-CULTURAL...
... INTER-CULTURAL...

COMEDY

DRAMA



WORLD WIDE



POPPETS

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

TRAINING KITS | MODULES | NEWSLETTERS | MAGAZINES |
SLIDE-TAPE SETS | VIDEOTAPES | BOOKS | PAMPHLETS |
BROCHURES | POSTERS | PHOTOGRAPHS | FLIP CHARTS ...

IF YOU HAVE ANY
SUGGESTIONS FOR
VIVENCIA!

PLEASE
LET US KNOW
AT:



INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S
TRIBUNE
CENTRE,
305 E. 46th STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10017
U.S.A.

FOR FORMAL
REGISTRATION, OR
PARTICIPATION
INFORMATION ABOUT THE
NGO FORUM:

SEE PAGES
21-24 OF
THIS
NEWSLETTER, OR
WRITE TO:



NGO FORUM
ROOM 574
600 LEXINGTON AVE.
NEW YORK, NY 10022

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF WOMEN ARTISTS

The First International Festival of Women Artists will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek Museum during July, 1980. The Festival, initiated by U.S. women artists, will coincide with the 1980 World Conference of the UN Decade for Women, and the non-governmental organizations (NGO) Forum being held as a parallel activity. U.S. participation in the Festival is sponsored by the non-profit Coalition of Women's Art Organizations (CWAO), comprised of 95 member groups representing more than 60,000 women in the arts.

With the support of the Secretariat of the UN World Conference, the committee is planning a program of readings, performances, panel discussions, films, and an exhibition of postcard art. Books and other literature will be on display.

WOMEN ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SLIDE PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS DISPLAY AND INTERNATIONAL POSTCARD EXHIBITION.

The slides will represent women's art from all over the world.

Mailing deadline for all exhibits, presentations, etc. is
May 1, 1980.

In the USA, write to:

Susan Schwalb, Project Director
233 East 21 Street
New York, N.Y. 10010
USA

Outside the USA, write to:

Annalise Hansen, Leder,
c/o Danish Council of Women
Niels Henningsensgade 8
1153 Copenhagen K
Denmark

WOMEN ARTISTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PART

FUNDS or

HOW DO I
GET TO
COPENHAGEN?

For most women around the world, the funds required to make the trip to Copenhagen in July are out of the question. In recognition of this fact, the NGO Forum Planning Committee is actively seeking funds to cover not only the administrative and interpretation costs related to the meeting itself, but also to cover the costs of paying fares and per diem for leadership and resource persons from the Third World. Therefore it is important that you make use of the forms that are included in this newsletter, particularly the one entitled Suggestions for Potential Resource Persons and Leadership, and send them as soon as possible to the NGO Forum Planning Committee.

However, it is only possible for the Planning Committee to cover the costs of a small number of Third World leaders and resource persons to the NGO Forum, and other ways must be found of raising funds for the many other women who would like to be able to go to Copenhagen. We have put together a short list of some suggestions, you may have others:

1. If you are a writer, go and see your local newspaper or magazine editor, with a view to becoming accredited with that publication, and contracting to write

articles about the meetings in Copenhagen on their behalf. This would meet two objectives: Wider coverage of the meetings, and your personal expenses.

2. Find out if your local organization is affiliated to an international association and write to the international headquarters. They may have ideas on ways to assist with your expenses.
3. Lobby your government department that deals with women's affairs. Put up a good case for there being non-governmental representatives on the government delegation to the World Conference. Non-governmental women's organizations around the world play an essential role in the advancement of women. With luck, you might be a representative chosen--if you play an active and essential role in the women and development activities of your country.

INCONET and THE MARKETPLACE

Recognizing that information and communication are critical tools in the promotion of more active and equitable participation of women in the development of their countries, the Tribune Centre has been particularly concerned with establishing ongoing exchanges of ideas, information and materials with individuals and groups similarly involved with the collection and dissemination of information on women's needs and issues. From March 2-11, 1980, the Tribune Centre was finally able to bring together a group of 18 women from 16 countries, representing the regions of Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean, the Pacific, North America and Europe for a one-week workshop that would allow for discussion and action on matters of mutual concern.

The workshop, nicknamed INCONET (INformation, COmmunication, NETworking), was designed as a very practical "hands on" skills and ideas sharing experience among participants. It covered the gamut of concerns ranging from classification systems for women and development resource centres, newsletter production techniques, and participatory media activities, to training activities and information needs of field-workers, slide-tape production on appropriate technology and images of women, communication strategies, and the strengthening of international and regional networks in the women and development field.

The culminating event of the workshop was a one-day resource fair entitled THE MARKETPLACE: Women Trading Resources. Other women and development agencies were invited to display their materials in one large area (called The Trading Post), while another area was transformed into a carnival of activities, including a Guided Fantasy corner for those who wanted to imagine themselves in distinguished positions, a Big Net corner that visualized with string and a colourful hammock the development of an international network of women, a Resource Centre of women's publications, a Talk-Back corner for radio interviews, and a Children's Corner for the younger set. THE MARKETPLACE enabled us to include many more people in the exchange of information and expertise that the INCONET participants had stimulated.

The major regret felt by all those who took part in the workshop, was that the time was too short, and we were not able to include all of you in the activities. Copenhagen will hopefully provide an opportunity to expand the number of individuals sharing skills and experience in this way. In any event, the INCONET report will be available May 1, and we will happily send it to any of you who are interested.

INCONET was funded by a special grant from the Women in Development office of the US Agency for International Development. The Tribune Centre is funded by grants from the Ministry of Development Cooperation of The Netherlands, the Swedish International Development Authority, the Ford Foundation, Australian Council of Churches, United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ of the USA.

THE WORLD CONFERENCE UN DECADE FOR WOMEN BELLA CENTRE, COPENHAGEN

THE CONFERENCE WILL:

Review and appraise implementation of the World Plan of Action adopted at the 1975 World Conference of International Women's Year.

Responses from 86 governments to a United Nations questionnaire, indicate that generally, women have advanced in some areas during the first half of the Decade.

SOME PROGRESS has taken place in improving:

- *Government policy & strategy for the integration of women in development.
- *Anti-discrimination & equal rights legislation.
- *Political participation & public office-holding, including external relations posts.
- *Activity in opposition to oppression & in support of peace and disarmament.
- *Nationality rights.
- *Dissemination of information on women's rights.
- *Work of women's organizations.

LITTLE PROGRESS is evident in achieving:

- *An adequate data base.
- *Reform of the welfare approach to women's situation.
- *Effective governmental machinery for integrating women.
- *Compensatory programmes.
- *Improvement in productive capacity, health and education of poor urban and rural women.
- *Widespread education on women's rights and legal protection.
- *The end of the double standard of conduct for men and women.
- *Visibility of women's work in national statistics and planning.
- *Conformity of law and practice; policy and implementation.
- *Equity in economic opportunities for women and men.
- *Changes in traditional attitudes.
- *Outreach of established women's organizations to disadvantaged rural and urban women.

References: A/CONF.94/11, A/CONF.94/13, E/CN.6/622, E/CN.6/636

THE CONFERENCE

Consider a
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NOTE: Docun
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Conference
New York.

CONFERENCE OF THE WOMEN. JULY 14-30, 1980 COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

THE CONFERENCE WILL:

Consider a PROGRAMME OF ACTION for the second half of the Decade for Women, to be reviewed in 1985 and 1990. Planning projections to be made for 1985-1995 include:

- *New areas for projects to enhance the situation of women and accelerate national development.
- *Advisory services, particularly in relation to imported technology and transnational corporation practices.
- *Increased access by disadvantaged women to basic services and appropriate technology.
- *Transitional strategies and compensatory mechanisms.
- *Adequate resources for just distribution of benefits.
- *Mobilization and increased participation of grass-roots organizations, particularly of working women from neglected sectors.
- *Financial and technical assistance to women's organizations.
- *Anti-discrimination legislation and educational programmes on women's rights.
- *Equitable representation in policy-making, including foreign policy, facilitated by recruitment and education.
- *Activities to promote peace and disarmament, eliminate international inequities, and secure the rights of Palestinian women and women under apartheid and women refugees.
- *Improvement in mass media images of women and use of media for information and education to implement the goals of the Decade.
- *Improved statistical and evaluation methods to provide adequate data, particularly for the least privileged.
- *Assistance from non-governmental organizations in implementing the goals of the Decade.

References: Draft Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.
A/CONF.94/3, E/CN.6/623.

NOTE: Documents referenced may be amended by the Commission on the Status of Women, 25 February-5 March, Vienna, or the Conference Preparatory Committee, 7-18 April, UN Headquarters, New York.



UN DOCUMENTS FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE

COPENHAGEN JULY 14-30, 1980

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| A/CONF.94/1 | Provisional agenda |
| A/CONF.94/2 | Provisional draft rules of procedure |
| A/CONF.94/3 | Draft programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. |
| A/CONF.94/4 | Special measures of assistance to Palestinian women |
| A/CONF.94/5 | The role of women in the struggle for national liberation in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. |
| A/CONF.94/6 | Measures of assistance for women in southern Africa. |
| A/CONF.94/7 | The effects of <u>apartheid</u> on the status of women in southern Africa. |
| A/CONF.94/8 | Review and evaluation of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action: EMPLOYMENT. |
| A/CONF.94/9 | Review and evaluation: HEALTH. |
| A/CONF.94/10 | Review and evaluation: EDUCATION. |
| A/CONF.94/11 | Review and evaluation: NATIONAL MACHINERY & LEGISLATION. |
| A/CONF.94/12 | Review and evaluation: NATIONAL PLANNING. |
| A/CONF.94/13 | Review and evaluation: POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION & STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL PEACE. |
| A/CONF.94/14 | Report of the seminar on the participation of women in the economic evolution of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region. |
| A/CONF.94/15 | Report of the regional preparatory meeting of the Economic & Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). |
| A/CONF.94/16 | Report of the regional preparatory meeting of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) |
| A/CONF.94/17 | Report of the regional preparatory meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). |
| A/CONF.94/18 | Report of the regional preparatory meeting of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA). |
| A/CONF.94/19 | Recommendations relating to women and development emerging from conferences held under the auspices of the United Nations and specialized agencies. |
| A/CONF.94/20 | Review of activities of the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations within the UN system. |

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WOMEN



The 34th United Nations General Assembly made history on 18 December, 1979, when it adopted the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*. The Convention was to have been adopted in 1978, and to have entered into force during the first half of the Decade for Women (GA Resolution 31/136). Theoretically, this would still be possible before 14 July (when the World Conference of the Decade for Women convenes), if 20 States ratified the Convention, and deposited their "instruments of ratification" with the UN Secretary General by 13 June, thus allowing the thirty day period required in Article 25.

In the weeks prior to the adoption of the Convention, there was some question as to whether the final wording of the Convention could be negotiated in time for it to be placed on the GA agenda. But with committed support and enormous effort on the part of the Convention drafters and other interested UN delegates, the document was presented and adopted.

Article 1 defines discrimination against women. The next 15 articles spell out the areas where discrimination is to be eliminated: In law and penal codes, including family law; in political and public life, including external relations; nationality, education, employment, health care, economic and social issues and rural life. Article 17 establishes a Committee on Discrimination against Women. Subsequent articles are procedural, except for Article 24, which stresses: States Parties undertake to adopt all necessary measures at the national level aimed at achieving the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Convention.

In adopting the Convention, the General Assembly expressed the hope that it will be signed and ratified or acceded to without delay, and will come into force at an early date (GA 34/180). The vote was 130 to 0, with 10 abstentions.

* The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, embodied in GA Res. 34/180, will be printed and available through United Nations Information Centres around the world, after it comes into force.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women met from 25 February-5 March in Vienna, Austria, at the new headquarters of the Branch for the Advancement of Women. In addition to acting on the provisional agenda items for the World Conference in Copenhagen, the Commission considered:

- (a) The question of elaborating a draft declaration on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination. (E/CN.6/626).
- (b) A confidential and non-confidential list of "Communications concerning the status of women" (E/CN.6/CR.25).
- (c) The report of the special rapporteur on the influence of the communications media on attitudes towards the roles of women and men in present-day society. (E/CN.6/627).

The draft declaration on the participation of women (see (a)), would:

- Encourage the participation of women in the right to live in peace.
- Urge States to create the necessary prerequisites, which would include; elimination of colonialism, apartheid, occupation by force and other causes of war.
- Condemn oppression and inhuman treatment of women on account of their advocacy of peace and self-determination.
- Encourage assurance that every State may establish its own economic order, use its own natural resources and that the reduction of differences in the level of developed and developing countries may be accomplished.

The "Communications..." (see (b)) before the Commission included a number of detailed reports from women's organizations on employment, health, education and special human rights issues, as well as the status and role of women in science and technology for development. Health issues included the effects of female genital mutilation and the international traffic in women (forced prostitution).

A more detailed accounting of reports from the Commission, particularly in the areas of health, employment and education, will be given in the next edition of the IWTC Newsletter (#12). That edition will be devoted to these 3 major areas before the World Conference and the NGO Forum.

MID-DECADE FORUM:



Equality - Development - Peace

WOMEN

will be the focus of two world meetings July 14-30, 1980 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

THE WORLD CONFERENCE

OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: representatives of governments, of bodies of the UN system and of organizations with official observer status will consider women's progress and obstacles encountered during the first half of the Decade for Women (1976-1985) and propose priorities for the next five years especially in employment, health and education. The World Conference will also consider women under apartheid, refugee women, Palestinian women and women in the struggle for peace.

THE MID-DECADE FORUM

an independent activity to run concurrently with the World Conference, July 14-30, 1980, sponsored by the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations and organized in consultation with the United Nations and the government of Denmark.

FORUM PURPOSE

to enable women and men from all geographic areas and diverse backgrounds to exchange information and perspectives on the situation of women at the Mid-Decade and devise strategies for change, particularly in those areas under discussion at the World Conference. The Forum will take no position on issues discussed and will not adopt formal resolutions in its own name.

PARTICIPANTS

organization representatives, Conference delegates, development workers, and noted authorities on the issues of the World Conference and the goals of the Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

PROGRAMME

cross-cultural dialogue, group meetings, working groups and workshops, round-tables, exhibits, films, other participant activities, a daily forum newspaper, and briefings on the UN World Conference proceedings. Main sessions will be interpreted in English, French and Spanish.



NGO MID-DECADE FORUM

Room 574
600 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022
USA



REGISTRATION

by attached application form or equivalent information.
Organizations and groups are urged to facilitate world-wide
attendance by sponsoring participants from geographic areas
generally under-represented at international non-governmental
assemblies.

cut out the form below and
send to:

Location: Amager University Centre, Copenhagen

Duration: July 14-24, 1980

Personnel: Convenor: CONGO Planning Committee
Elizabeth Palmer

Co-ordinators: NGO FORUM
Hilda Rwabazaire Paqui
Marianne Huggard



CUT OUT HERE

APPLICATION FORM

Name

Nom

Nombre

Address

Adresse

Dirección

Profession

Profession

Profesión

Nationality

Nationalité

Nacionalidad

Please indicate whether you are a member of an organization and which one.

Prière d'indiquer si vous êtes membre d'une organisation et laquelle.

Por favor indique si usted es miembro de una organización y cual.

I would like to hear discussion of the following issues:

Je voudrais suivre les débats dans les domaines suivants:

Quiero seguir discusiones sobre los problemas siguientes:

in English

☐

en français

☐

en español

☐

MID-DECADE FORUM

Room 574

600 Lexington Avenue

New York, N.Y. 10022

Tel: (212) 751-6850

ACTIVITY REQUEST FORM FOR NGO FORUM

Name and Address of Organization:

Contact Person:

Theme or Subject Matter:

Type of Activity (Panel, Workshop, Display, etc.):

Space Requirement:

Number of Sessions:

Further Information: (Interpretation will only be provided for the formal programme sessions).

Panelists, discussion leaders, resource persons you would plan to invite. Please give brief description of each, including name, geographical area and field of expertise:

Signed: _____

Title: _____

RETURN TO: NGO Planning Committee, Room 574, 600 Lexington Avenue,
New York, N.Y. 10022. U.S.A.

SUGGESTION FOR RESOURCE PERSON / LEADERSHIP AT NGO FORUM

Name: _____ Nationality: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Telex/Cable: _____

Age Category: Under 20 years of age _____ 21-35 _____ 36-50 _____ 50+ _____

Areas of Expertise: _____

Experience as: Panelist on major theme: _____
Discussion Group Leader: _____ Theme: _____
Workshop Leader: _____
Other: (Please specify) _____

Please provide on a separate sheet of paper, any additional comments (not more than 200 words) you may wish, to explain why you feel this person should be invited to share in the leadership of The Forum.

Would this person require financial assistance? (NOTE: The completion of this form in no way implies any financial commitment on the part of the Planning Committee, but they will certainly try to assist where possible).

Travel _____

Board and Lodging _____

Both _____

Would she/he or your organization be willing to provide partial funding if a grant is made available for the balance?

YES _____

NO _____

If the answer is yes, what proportion would be needed from the Planning Committee? Proportion _____

Recommended by: NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ORGANIZATION _____

Return to: NGO PLANNING COMMITTEE, Room 574, 600 Lexington Avenue,
New York, N.Y. 10022, U.S.A.